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### **YOU DON'T SAY...**

"Your presentation seems to imply there might be drunk people at an N.C. State football game, and I'm just shocked."

*Rep. Grier Martin, D-Wake, on a presentation from N.C. State police about security measures for football games.*

THE INSIDER, 11/16/17

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## News Summary

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### Chemours Permit

State environmental regulators now say they will revoke a key portion of Chemours' wastewater permit and that they are referring an investigation into an unreported spill of unregulated chemicals at the company's Bladen County plant to the State Bureau of Investigation.

The announcement Thursday afternoon is a reversal of sorts, coming just weeks after officials with the state Department of Environmental Quality said they would not terminate the company's permit, which is currently under review for renewal by the agency. Chemours has been under fire for months after the public learned the company has released a family of unregulated, largely unstudied chemicals, including a compound called GenX, into the Cape Fear River. Since then, the state has forced the company to capture wastewater containing GenX and truck it out of state for disposal.

DEQ officials said the move to revoke Chemours' permit was prompted by the company's failure to report an Oct. 6 spill at the Fayetteville Works plant of C3 dimer acid fluoride, which effectively breaks down in water into the equivalent of GenX. In a letter to the company dated Thursday, DEQ told the company it will suspend its permit to discharge wastewater specifically in the areas where it produces GenX and related chemicals, effective Nov. 30. That portion of the permit will be fully revoked after 60 days, per state law, pending a period of public comment.

Sen. Mike Lee, R-New Hanover, commended DEQ's announcement Thursday afternoon -- and hinted at the political clash between the legislature and Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper over issues of timing, enforcement and funding to tackle the issue of unregulated contaminants.

"For months, we have called on Gov. Cooper's administration to do the right thing, and we are glad they're finally taking the needed steps to hold Chemours accountable. The news reports that Chemours deliberately withheld information about yet another spill of GenX that could endanger our drinking water are shocking and show the same disturbing lack of transparency as the company's repeated refusal to testify at our public hearings," Lee said in the statement. "We agree that referring this matter to the State Bureau of Investigation is the appropriate next step."

Environmental groups applauded the move Thursday afternoon. And North Carolina Conservation Network Executive Director Brian Buzby called on state lawmakers to take steps to better regulate and monitor other industrial chemicals in the Cape Fear River and other waterways statewide. (Tyler Dukes and Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 11/16/17).

### Medicaid Dispute

A series of Medicaid errors that went on for years led to North Carolina wrongfully taking millions of dollars from the federal government, according to a new report. And now the feds want that money back.

The Trump administration's Department of Health and Human Services released the report Thursday afternoon. It detailed how under the watch of both Democratic Gov. Bev Perdue and Republican Gov. Pat McCrory, an error by state workers in charge of processing Medicaid claims led to an estimated \$63 million in improper Medicaid payments. The federal government picked up most of the tab for those payments, pitching in \$41.2 million that has been identified to date. The state examined a random sampling of 200 cases in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and concluded all of them were initially paid incorrectly. Just 16 were later fixed. The report recommended that North Carolina pay back the \$41.2 million and also ensure that the state system complies with the law in the future.

But the state is fighting back and doesn't appear to intend to pay what the feds say they're owed. "North Carolina disagreed with our findings and recommendations," the report says -- although it notes that the federal government doesn't plan to back down, either.

A spokesman for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services declined to comment other than to point to past remarks from N.C. DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen that were included in the audit. Cohen has experience with the agencies on both sides of this exchange; she also was a high-ranking administrator in the federal DHHS under the Obama administration. In her North Carolina role, she wrote in an August letter to the Trump DHHS that North Carolina's processes are "routinely vetted ... to ensure compliance with federal requirements." Despite their differences of opinion, both the federal government and state government agree that the state doesn't appear to be making any improper payments now that could cost taxpayers in the future.(Will Doran, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/16/17).

## **Prison Dangers**

North Carolina prisons were already a more dangerous place to work before four employees at an understaffed prison were killed during a failed breakout last month, the deadliest in state history. Assaults on prison staff so far this year are already 50 percent higher than five years ago, according to state prisons data provided to The Associated Press. The same period has seen a near-doubling of incidents in which employees at Pasquotank Correctional Institution -- the site of last month's failed escape -- were so seriously hurt by inmates they missed workdays. The cases don't include non-injury assaults by inmates such as spitting, throwing urine or shoving employees. The increase in assaults comes even though the prison system has cut the number of inmates by 3,000 since 2011.

The state Department of Public Safety, which runs the prisons, did not provide an official who could discuss the reasons for the growing danger. Changes in sentencing laws that sent more misdemeanor offenders to county jails instead of prisons "have done as intended and resulted in more violent offenders in prison for longer sentences," agency spokesman Jerry Higgins wrote in an email Thursday.

According to Correction Department figures, there were 69 reported assaults on employees across the state's 55 prisons as of Nov. 2, compared to an average of 55 per year between 2012 and 2016. The head of the legislative committee likely to shape prison reforms said Thursday that legislators are determined to improve safety, salaries and staffing levels in the wake of the Pasquotank deaths, and a fifth guard killed at a nearby prison earlier this year. The last time a prison worker was killed was 2010.

"This is an ongoing commitment to improving," said Rep. Ted Davis, R-New Hanover, who heads the unified legislative committee overseeing public safety. "On behalf of the people of this state, I extend our deepest gratitude to those officers and employees working in such a dangerous line of duty so that we may be safe."(Emery P. Dalesio, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 11/16/17).

## **Law Enforcement Bill**

Organizations representing the state's police chiefs and sheriffs called on legislators Thursday to pass a bill that would make it easier for law-enforcement agencies to share staff, equipment and other resources.

The N.C. Sheriffs' Association and the N.C. Association of Chiefs of Police both brought up House Bill 388 during their presentations Thursday to the Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee. HB 388 would make it easier for law enforcement agencies to create mutual aid agreements with other agencies to provide temporary assistance during an emergency.

Current law requires the city or county governing board to approve individual agreements -- which can pose problems when a neighboring community needs help in a hurry.

Sheriffs' Association President Carson Smith said most agencies have standing agreements with their neighbors, but big events such as floods often require law enforcement help from across the state -- creating a "paperwork nightmare." In one instance, according to the Sheriffs' Association, county commissioners had to schedule a special Sunday meeting to approve an agreement. Smith said HB 388 will "will knock down the bureaucracy and the unneeded paperwork, which will reduce response times." Speaking on behalf of the Association of Chiefs of Police, Garner Police Chief Brandon Zuidema also voiced support for the bill.

HB 388 includes an opt-out provision in which local governments can pass rules that limit or ban assistance to outside agencies. The bill passed the House unanimously in April, but it stalled in the Senate Rules Committee and did not reach a floor vote before this year's session ended. "We're



not aware of any opposition to the bill," said Eddie Caldwell of the Sheriffs' Association. "We hope that during the short session y'all will pass that."(Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 11/17/17).

## **Education Funding**

**Resources:** [Meeting Presentation](#)

Lawmakers this week got to examine how other states are tackling paying for education, and learned that it's not going to be an easy process for them to undertake. That comes as no surprise to Rep. Craig Horn, R-Union, who reminded members of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform before Wednesday's meeting kicked off that their work is going to be a "heavy lift."

Michael Griffith, school finance strategist with the Education Commission of the States, gave lawmakers the rundown on how school funding has changed over the last century and how the funding models for other states wouldn't translate successfully to North Carolina. Griffith explained that a high-quality funding model would have to be adequate, equitable, flexible and adaptable. He said North Carolina's current funding model is equitable for the most part, but has limited flexibility and is not adaptable. He noted that it's hard to tell if the funding model is adequate. Griffith outlined how the General Assembly can go about creating a new, high-quality model of funding for education. First, legislators would have to determine what would and would not be changing, then they'd create a general outline of the new formula. From there a "working" outline of the formula would be drafted, before running the numbers through the new formula, and then refining it. But between each of those steps, Griffith said lawmakers should be getting public input. "The more you can bring the public into the process, the better it's going to be," he said. "And the easier it's going to be for them to accept the formula."(Lauren Horsch, THE INSIDER, 11/17/17).

## **Expecting 'Agitators'**

State law enforcement officials told legislators Thursday that they're expecting "outside agitators" to come to North Carolina in the coming months to protest the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The comments came during a presentation about the N.C. Information Sharing and Analysis Center, which is part of the State Bureau of Investigation. The center coordinates communication between federal, state and local agencies to evaluate public safety threats and solve crimes.

Dirk German, an SBI special agent-in-charge who oversees the center, compared potential protests of the proposed natural gas pipeline along Interstate 95 to protests of a similar pipeline in North Dakota. "A lot of the protesters that are going to be coming in for that are going to be professional protesters that are not from North Carolina," he told a legislative oversight committee.

The Information Sharing and Analysis Center has assisted local law enforcement in handling recent protests, including Chapel Hill protests calling for the Silent Sam statue to be removed. Melissa Roberts said her job at the center involves searching through social media posts to identify protesters and learn of their plans. "As all of the individuals starting showing up, I was able to identify a known individual who was a key instigator," she said, adding that when officers arrested the man, the action served to "draw the crowd away from the statue and de-escalated that entire situation."

The center is one of 79 similar centers across the country set up in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Its mission has grown since. "In 2010, we realized there's a whole lot more information out there than terrorism information," German said, adding that the center now covers all types of crimes. "We're the people that will look at the small stuff so the big stuff doesn't happen." But Sen. Ronald Rabin, R-Harnett, said he's concerned the center isn't focusing enough on raising awareness in the community about terrorism threats. "Awareness of terrorism in the community is weak," Rabin said. "They have to know locally what the threat is."(Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 11/17/17).

## **Property Seizure**

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is set to start seizing private property in North Carolina early next year to build its proposed 600-mile natural gas pipeline from West Virginia to North Carolina. The energy consortium, which includes Charlotte-based Duke Energy, said this week that about 20 percent of 2,900 landowners whose properties lie in the path of the proposed underground

pipeline have not signed voluntary agreements to allow their land to be used for the project, including an estimated 200 property owners in eight North Carolina counties.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline can begin legal condemnation proceedings against holdout property owners as soon as it has received all state and federal permits. This week a spokesman for pipeline partner Dominion Energy said the Atlantic Coast Pipeline expects remaining state permits to be issued by mid-December, reiterating recent comments Dominion CEO Tom Farrell II made to Wall Street analysts.

The regulatory approvals would clear the way for tree removal, boring, trenching and other construction of the pipeline. The project, already a year behind schedule, is expected to start moving natural gas in the second half of 2019.

While the Atlantic Coast Pipeline has undisputed legal authority to use private land for the project, the looming court actions against rural residents touch on sensitive issues of property rights and farming traditions. The Wilson Times newspaper published an editorial denouncing the pipeline's corporate "land grab" and lamenting the sacrifice of "purloined property."

Nash County crop farmer Marvin Winstead Jr., who has refused to cooperate on pipeline access, says he's being subjected to "psychological warfare." He believes the underground pipeline will compromise the quality of the soil for years and resents out-of-state lawyers and agents dictating the terms of his farm. He said he has no intention to voluntarily cede his property for the project. "They talk to you as if you're as dumb as a bump on a log," Winstead said. "It's a very well-rehearsed and practiced orchestrated effort."

Dominion spokesman Aaron Ruby said the property seizures, conducted through "eminent domain" proceedings, are a last resort to be used against landowners who don't voluntarily lease their land for the project and agree to financial compensation for the use of their land. The payments to property owners, based on real estate appraisals, compensate landowners for allowing utility crews to enter their properties to access the pipeline for the life of the project. The payments also compensate property owners for not growing trees and not erecting buildings on a 50-foot-wide strip above the pipeline.

In an interstate eminent domain proceeding, the amount to be paid to landowners will likely be determined by a federal court. In a negotiated settlement, the compensation amount is agreed upon by lawyers on both sides, or simply by the energy consortium's lawyers reaching an agreement with a property owner. (John Murawski, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/16/17).

## **Legislator Rankings**

Resources: [FreeEnterprise Foundation Rankings](#)

Republicans dominated a ranking of legislators based on votes in support of "free enterprise" that was released Thursday by the pro-business N.C. FreeEnterprise Foundation, with nearly all Democrats scoring below their GOP counterparts.

The top legislators based on the group's scoring were Rep. Jason Saine, R-Lincoln, and Sen. Brent Jackson, R-Sampson. Saine was followed in the House by fellow Republican Reps. John Bell, Bill Brawley, John Bradford and Speaker Tim Moore. In the Senate, Jackson was followed in the rankings by Sens. Bill Rabon, Phil Berger, Harry Brown and Rick Gunn. The lowest ranked legislators were Rep. Pricey Harrison, D-Guilford, and Sen. Jay Chaudhuri, D-Wake. Only two Democrats scored higher than some Republicans -- Reps. William Brisson, who became a Republican after this year's session, and Rep. Ken Goodman.

The rankings were based in part on a survey of business leaders, as well as on an analysis of how lawmakers voted on about 30 bills and amendments favored by the business community -- with all bills included sponsored by Republicans. The bills included the "brunch bill" that loosening alcohol sales regulations, two GOP "regulatory reform" bills, the N.C. Farm Act and a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban unions. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 11/17/17).

## **Weekend TV**

Political roundtable shows in North Carolina will be taking a closer look at the new draft legislative district maps proposed by the court-appointed "special master," the 20th anniversary of the Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Resort, and how the state is attempting to stop opioid abuse. Here's what to look for:



- **Education Matters** is pre-empted this weekend on WRAL. Fox50 and the North Carolina Channel will air encore episodes of the show. **Host:** Keith Poston **Airs:** Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on Fox50, Sunday at 6:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. on UNC-TV's North Carolina Channel and anytime on [NCForum.org](http://NCForum.org).
- **Front Row:** This week's show discusses the draft legislative maps released by the court-appointed "special master," recent allegations against Alabama Republican U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore, the opioid epidemic in the state and the GOP tax reform clearing the U.S. House. **Host:** Marc Rotterman **Guests:** Democratic strategist Morgan Jackson; state Rep. Ed Hanes, D-Forsyth; state Sen. Dan Bishop, R-Mecklenburg; and Donna King, managing editor of the North State Journal. **Airs:** 8:30 p.m. Friday on UNC-TV, and on the NC Channel at 9 p.m. Friday, 4 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday, or [online](#).
- **In Focus:** This week's show dives into Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Resort's 20th anniversary and how it became the state's top tourist destination. **Host:** Loretta Boniti **Guests:** state Sen. Jim Davis, R-Macon; state Rep. Kevin Corbin, R-Macon; Leeann Bridges, vice president of marketing for Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Resort; and Chief Richard Sneed of the Eastern Band of Cherokee. **Airs:** 11:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Sunday on Spectrum News/News 14, and can be found [online](#).
- **NC Spin:** Panelists this week will discuss the draft legislative maps proposed by the court-appointed "special master," how Hope Leadership Academy went from an "F" to a "C," and landing the big game. **Host:** Tom Campbell **Guests:** former Democratic House Speaker Joe Mavretic, former Democratic state Sen. Howard Lee and columnist John Hood. **Airs:** Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on Fox50 WRAZ. Shows can also be found online at [NC Spin](#).
- **On the Record:** This week, Attorney General Josh Stein will join host David Crabtree and WRAL-TV reporter Bryan Mims to discuss the state's effort to fight opioid abuse. **Airs:** Saturday, 7 p.m. on WRAL-TV, with recordings available online at [wral.com](http://wral.com).

(THE INSIDER, 11/17/17).

## Opioid Poll

In a recent survey of North Carolina voters, the majority indicated that they have not been personally impacted by prescription pain pill abuse. However, most believe that the problem deserves medical attention rather than involvement from the criminal justice system. Survey responders were split on whether the opioid epidemic in the state has gotten enough attention. In the latest statewide Elon University poll, North Carolina voters were asked for their thoughts on the growing problem of opioid abuse and overdose. Elon surveyed 771 registered North Carolina voters by phone between Nov. 6 and 9. NC Health News helped shape the opioid-related questions for the poll. "Our data clearly show that North Carolina voters see opioid abuse as a significant issue worthy of attention," said Jason Husser, director of the Elon Poll and assistant professor of political science, in a press release.

About 45 percent of those surveyed said the issue of opioid abuse is not getting enough attention, while 39 percent think the issue has gotten the right amount. However, only 31 percent said that they, a family member or friend had been personally impacted by the epidemic. That is about one in three North Carolinians.

Approximately 59 percent of those surveyed said they believed prescription pills were a larger problem than street drugs such as heroin (26 percent). The opioid overdose numbers collected nationally and by the state include both prescription pain pills and heroin. When asked whether their community had sufficient resources to deal with opioid abuse, 43 percent said no, 28 percent said yes, and 28 percent were undecided.

Only 21 percent of those surveyed said the problem of illegal use of prescription drugs should be dealt with through the criminal justice system. In contrast, 56 percent said it should be treated by doctors through the medical system.

Very few Democrats and Independents (18 percent) said the criminal justice system should handle illegal prescription drug use, while 31 percent of the Republicans said it should. Additionally, 43 percent of millennials (age 18- 36) said they or someone they knew has been impacted by opioid

abuse. Meanwhile, 32 percent of Baby Boomers and only 18 percent of the oldest people surveyed said they have been personally touched by the problem.

"The groups most likely to say they have been personally impacted by opioid addiction are whites, men, Millennials, and those from suburban counties," Husser said in a press release. "This largely tracks overdose statistics in North Carolina and in the nation as a whole." (Taylor Knopf, NC HEALTH NEWS, 11/16/17).

### **Transportation Issues**

John Torbett, who represents most of eastern Gaston County in the state House and serves as chairman of the House Transportation Committee, spoke to the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce Thursday morning about transportation issues and priorities facing the region and the state.

Some highlights of his remarks include:

- **Transportation Revenue:** The coming proliferation of all-electric vehicles makes it more important than ever that North Carolina expand and diversify its revenue stream for transportation. Currently, the state relies upon Division of Motor Vehicle fees, the gasoline tax, and taxes on new vehicle sales. "Gasoline-powered vehicles are going to decline. Personal ownership of vehicles is going to decline," Torbett said. "We have got to figure out new ways to pay for our transportation network."
- **Connecting Gastonia to Charlotte:** Growth in Mecklenburg County, particularly in the area to the west of the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, makes it vital to Gaston County's future to have a new, southern connection across the Catawba River. "People ask me if I am in favor of light rail," Torbett said. "I say, 'yes.' People ask me if I am in favor of a new bridge. I say, 'yes.' I am in favor of whatever we need to do to bring growth and jobs and revenue to Gaston County."
- **U.S. 74 Corridor:** A key to economic growth in North Carolina, which many people may not consider, Torbett said, is expanded usage of the state's two ports in Morehead City and Wilmington, but particularly in Wilmington. It is not only vital to improve the port itself, making it able to handle larger ships and more traffic, but the state must also have a transportation corridor leading straight to Wilmington from the western part of the state -- the route along U.S. 74. To make that work, however, it will be necessary to build bypasses around Gastonia and other urban areas along the way.
- **Toll Roads:** The N.C. General Assembly ruled several years ago that tolls may be charged in North Carolina only on newly constructed roads or on new lanes added to existing highways, such as the toll lanes being built along Interstate 77 north of Charlotte. "Tolling will inevitably be a part of the solution for North Carolina's transportation revenue stream," Torbett said. "It has to be."

(Bill Poteat, THE GASTON GAZETTE, 11/16/17).

### **Coal Ash Cleanup**

A spot at Duke Energy's Sutton Plant site that used to resemble a large hill now looks like a small pond. The cavity is part of a massive moving of 7 million tons of coal ash -- a byproduct of burning coal at the sprawling complex off U.S. 421 North -- stored in unlined or clay-lined basins at the site to a mile-long string of landfill cells to meet the requirements of the Coal Ash Management Act of 2014. The company has already moved 2 million tons of ash off-site by rail to the Brickhaven Mine Fill Site in Chatham County and is in the process of moving the rest to a series of landfill cells on the company's property. "What they've removed has been really substantial," said Steven Gordy, project manager for Duke Energy.

The project also includes an on-site water treatment plant to treat water runoff from the landfills, which will have several layers of clay and synthetic material between the deposited ash and the ground underneath, as well as the water in the old ash sites. Ultimately, when the project is finished in late 2019 or early 2020, crews will close the landfills -- they'll resemble grass-covered hills -- and allow treated water to become an extension of adjacent Sutton Lake, he said.

But the project, done to comply with environmental regulations, doesn't come without controversy, as Duke has asked the N.C. Utilities Commission to approve a rate increase for customers averaging 16.7 percent -- partly to pay for coal ash mitigation. The company has said the average residential customer would see rates increase by \$18.72 per month. At a series of public hearings, including in Wilmington, Duke customers universally asked the commission to deny the rate increase. Brooks said the company believes the cleanup and other investments are "part of the normal business of running an electrical utility." (Tim Buckland, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 11/16/17).

### **EPA Nominee**

North Carolina's two Republican senators say they oppose President Donald Trump's pick to oversee chemical safety at the Environmental Protection Agency, putting Michael L. Dourson's nomination at serious risk. Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis issued statements saying they will vote against Dourson to serve as head of EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

Environmentalists and Senate Democrats have vehemently opposed Dourson, a toxicologist with close ties to the chemical industry. That means only one more Republican "no" vote would likely be needed to torpedo his nomination. Moderate GOP Sen. Susan Collins of Maine told reporters Thursday she is also leaning against supporting Dourson but has not yet made a final decision. The White House and EPA did not respond to requests for comment Wednesday or Thursday. Despite the fact he hasn't yet been confirmed by the Senate, Dourson has already been working at the agency as a senior adviser to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The agency's press office did not respond to emails seeking how much he is being paid. The Associated Press reported in September that Dourson has for years accepted payments for criticizing studies that raised concerns about the safety of his clients' products, according to a review of financial records and his published work. Past corporate clients of Dourson and of a research group he ran include Dow Chemical Co., Koch Industries Inc. and Chevron Corp. His research has also been underwritten by industry trade and lobbying groups representing the makers of plastics, pesticides, processed foods and cigarettes.

Burr and Tillis, both of whom are considered reliably pro-business conservatives, cited Dourson's past work and worries among their home-state constituents about tainted drinking water in opposing his nomination. "Over the last several weeks, Senator Tillis has done his due diligence in reviewing Mr. Dourson's body of work," said a statement from Tillis' office. "Senator Tillis still has serious concerns about his record and cannot support his nomination." (Micheal Biesecker, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 11/16/17).

### **Investment Lawsuit**

A Triangle investment firm manager who hired the scions of prominent Raleigh families to recruit potential investors has been accused of "squandering millions of dollars" by mismanaging two companies. William M. "Bill" Moore, who has had a distinguished career as an investment banker, board member and business school professor, and his son, Merrette Moore, who together founded Lookout Capital, are named in the lawsuit filed Monday. Suing them are John Kane Jr., the son of the prominent Raleigh developer, and Michael O'Donnell, an operating partner and advisory board member for Lookout Capital. The complaint was filed by Kieran Shanahan's law firm and will be overseen by state business court Judge Gregory McGuire.

"This matter concerns a promising private equity firm, known as Lookout, whose members have been misled, misinformed and ultimately fleeced due to the unsuitability, mismanagement, and self-dealing of Lookout's father and son managers, Bill Moore and Merrette Moore," the complaint signed by attorney Christopher Battles reads. Battles could not be reached for further comment. (Craig Jarvis, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/16/17).

### **Retiring**

Lawrence J. Wheeler is stepping down as director of the North Carolina Museum of Art. His retirement date will be November 2018 -- his 24th year at the museum -- pending the naming of a successor, according to a letter sent to museum members. Wheeler oversaw the expansion of the museum on multiple fronts, including the West Wing Building that opened in 2010 and last



year's park expansion -- plus an outdoor-amphitheater concert series that set an attendance record this year in its 20th season. In August, the News & Observer reported that Wheeler was the highest paid employee in North Carolina's state agencies. Wheeler was earning \$295,788 a year, according to the report.

Gov. Roy Cooper released a statement, in response to the news of Wheeler's retirement, calling him the museum's "guiding light."

"North Carolina is better for his service," Cooper wrote, "and Kristin and I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement." (David Menconi, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/16/17).

### **Greensboro Solar Case**

Activist energy group NC WARN asked the North Carolina Supreme Court Thursday to reverse state regulators' past rulings against its solar-power deal with a Greensboro church. The Durham-based nonprofit appealed decisions by the state Utilities Commission and North Carolina Court of Appeals that voided its arrangement with Faith Community Church on Arlington Street. "The North Carolina test case is a challenge to Duke Energy's ability to prevent competition from companies that install solar systems on rooftops with little or no upfront cost to the consumer, and then sell the power to the customer," NC WARN director Jim Warren said in a news release.

Under terms of their 2015 agreement, Faith Community Church is buying its 5.2-kilowatt, rooftop solar panels from NC WARN by paying for the electricity they produce each month. But Duke Energy spokesman Randy Wheeless said Thursday that the prior rulings correctly upheld the concept that any group selling power to somebody else is, by definition, a public utility and must adhere to rules set by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

Wheeless said a new state law allows solar providers to lease rooftop panels to consumers for a monthly fee, essentially accomplishing the same goal as NC WARN's deal with the church but just not tying payments directly to electricity from the panels. "It makes the case a little obsolete," Wheeless said of the new law.

But Warren and Faith Community Church leaders say the central issue they want to settle in their appeal remains important -- who controls the sun. "There has never been a more important time to challenge Duke Energy's control over the benefits we are all provided by the sun," said the Rev. Nelson Johnson, the church's pastor. Johnson criticized "Duke Energy's constant rate increases to pay for more and more fossil-fuel power plants that are not needed."

In its appeal, NC WARN argues that such "third party sales" as its Faith Community arrangement are in accord with the North Carolina General Assembly's stated aim of encouraging "private investment in the development of renewable energy." (Taft Wireback, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 11/16/17).

### **Horace Williams Airport**

UNC-Chapel Hill trustees say they want to close the Horace Williams Airport regardless of whether the university someday goes through with plans to build its Carolina North satellite campus on the property. The airport is responsible for "significant annual financial" losses for UNC-CH, requires more than \$1 million in runway repairs and isn't serving any university operation these days, they said in a resolution they approved Thursday. They acknowledged that their vote was advisory, as the authority to actually follow through on the idea rests elsewhere. The N.C. General Assembly has blocked prior closure attempts, despite former Chancellor James Moeser's 2002 determination that shutting down the airstrip was "in the best interests of both the university and the community."

The latest closure attempt surfaced in September, thanks to administrators in UNC-CH finance office. They contend Horace Williams Airport is costing the university \$7,000 a month to operate. The airport's long been a flashpoint in town-gown relations, with neighborhood activists and town leaders alike arguing that its presence is too much of a safety risk.

Prevailing winds generally dictate that airplanes take off to the west, toward Carrboro and the pastures near the Calvander crossroads. But occasionally, they flip and compel takeoffs to the east. There, the flight path takes planes over Phillips Middle School and Estes Hill Elementary School. There's little to no vacant land nearby a pilot could use for an emergency landing in the event of a mechanical failure or other emergency at low altitude. University officials say they

worry about "increasing liability" because of the proximity of the schools and the town's residential development.(Ray Gronberg, THE DURHAM HERALD-SUN, 11/16/17).

### **Rural Health Day**

Gov. Roy Cooper proclaimed Thursday Rural Health Day in North Carolina, noting that when the N.C. Office of Rural Health opened in 1973 it was the first state office in the nation created to focus on the healthcare needs of rural and underserved communities.

"Small towns and rural areas are great places to raise a family and a vital part of the economic engine in our state," said Governor Cooper. "The health care providers serving our rural communities help keep our citizens strong and healthy, and we appreciate their service." The theme for this year's observance, 'Celebrate the Strength of Rural,' honors the selfless, community-minded, can-do spirit that prevails in rural communities across North Carolina, according to a news release. Approximately 2.2 million people -- one in five North Carolinians -- live in the state's rural communities.

The Office of Rural Health administers more than 300 contracts assuring access to quality healthcare for citizens living in underserved areas. State, federal and philanthropic sources provide more than \$28 million to improve access, quality and cost-effectiveness of care through efforts supported by the office. More than 90 percent of the funds go directly to North Carolina communities.

The Office of Rural Health supports provider recruitment and placement for medical, dental and psychiatric health professionals, rural health centers, community health programs, the Rural Hospital Program, Medication Assistance Program, Statewide Telepsychiatry Program, the NC Farmworker Health Program and integrated health systems.(NEWS RELEASE, 11/16/17).

### **Pay Cut Proposal**

If Brownie Newman wants Buncombe County to consider proposed pay cuts, he'll have to find at least two fellow commissioners to join the cause. It may not be an easy feat. The seven-person county Board of Commissioners, forced to confront inflated salaries and allegations of fraud under their watch, are now looking for ways to regain public trust and commit to transparency -- but that doesn't mean they agree on how to get there. "I think that everyone recognizes there's a need to make changes, but there are differences," Newman told the Citizen-Times this week. Newman on Oct. 11 released a memo, calling for commissioners to cut their own pay to fall in line with that of similarly sized counties. The Democratic chairman also called for reducing overall compensation for senior management "through restructuring, adjustments to salary, attrition or other approaches."

Last week, however, commissioners voted to eliminate the board chairman's ability to place items on meeting agendas. The move left one remaining option: At least three commissioners must come together to bring proposals forward for consideration. That's what three commissioners did at the last meeting, using a bipartisan approach. Republican Joe Belcher and Democrats Ellen Frost and Al Whitesides sought to change the chairman's authority.

Newman, chairman for the past year, cast the lone dissenting vote. It was the board's first meeting since he and Commissioner Mike Fryar briefly argued over the proposal in board chambers before another meeting in mid-October. Newman said he didn't receive calls from colleagues before the proposal was placed on the agenda.

If approved, the pay cuts would join the onslaught of policy changes meant to correct actions taken by Wanda Greene, the former county manager who's now the subject of a federal criminal investigation. Previously sealed documents show that county officials notified investigators of "inappropriate financial transactions" that included gift card purchases and online home decor orders, the Citizen-Times reported this week.(Jennifer Bowman, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 11/16/17).

### **Beach Improvements**

Starting beach re-nourishment by next spring will need a lot of working parts to mesh on a tight timeline that includes the endorsement of a Congressional committee, Nags Head commissioners were told Wednesday night. In a special meeting, the Board of Commissioners received a detailed schedule for the 10-mile project, which would start by the end of May under the best



circumstances. The latest it could start next year would be mid-July, Town Engineer David Ryan said.

Half of the \$25.5 million project is being covered by Dare County. The town will borrow the other half for the maintenance, which had been planned as part of the original beach nourishment project in 2011.

Meanwhile, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is processing a claim that would reimburse the town for unexpected losses from Hurricane Matthew last year that had not been factored into the maintenance plan. The claim for \$16.2 million will then go to a Congressional committee that considers payouts exceeding \$1 million.

With numerous federal and state agencies in the mix, Ryan said some of the schedule's components are beyond the town's control, although contingencies are built into what he described as a fluid document. Before anything can proceed, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will need to provide FEMA with a biological opinion, which examines the project's effect on marine life and shorebirds. That is expected by the end of the year. (Rob Morris, THE OUTER BANKS VOICE, 11/16/17).

### **Confederate Flag**

Commissioners in Montgomery County say they will restrict funding to a rural volunteer fire department that for months has refused to take down the Confederate flag that waves over it. The debate over the Uwharrie Volunteer Fire Department's flag has simmered for months but complaints about it go back years, according to news accounts. The department, organized as a nonprofit corporation in 1983, occupies a privately-owned building but gets county money. County commissioners had previously asked the department to remove the flag. This week they delivered an ultimatum.

Commissioners said by letter they would limit the fire department's funding until it removes the flag, paying only for fuel and maintenance of the two county-owned trucks that firefighters operate. The county will also replace the Uwharrie name on the trucks with new graphics "in support of the county's stance on equal rights and freedom of speech."

The department has said it relies heavily on donations from a community that supports the flags. "We feel that we would not continue to receive the financial support needed to meet our expenses if we remove our flags," the department wrote, the Montgomery Herald reported. "In our opinion, the protection of life and property outweighs the few people that choose to be offended and have a perverted view of a symbol that is part of our community's history and heritage." (Bruce Henderson, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 11/16/17).

### **Enrollment Boost**

The group of ECSU and UNC officials working to boost enrollment at Elizabeth City State University believe the number of students on campus could total 1,700 next fall when the NC Promise tuition discount program takes effect. If that happens, it would represent an enrollment bump of 300 students from this fall and be the university's second enrollment increase in a row -- a major change after six years of enrollment decreases.

Chancellor Thomas Conway told members of the ECSU "Working Group" at a meeting Wednesday that next fall's projection, which also includes a freshmen class of 125, is "still a soft figure" but is based on the best current estimates by Althea Riddick.

Riddick, ECSU's interim director of enrollment management, has briefed trustees and other university officials about the enrollment outlook as ECSU prepares to implement NC Promise in fall 2018. NC Promise, which will discount tuition at ECSU to \$500 a semester for in-state students and \$2,500 a semester for out-of-state students, is expected to generate a surge in enrollment at ECSU.

The working group, the second formed by UNC President Margaret Spellings to address enrollment at ECSU, is made up of three ECSU trustee board members and three members of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Spellings participated in Wednesday's meeting by telephone, telling the group she was looking forward to hearing reports from the team.

The chancellor noted that ECSU's goals are linked to the strategic goals established by the UNC system for all its constituent institutions. Conway noted that Kim Brown, chairman of the ECSU Board of Trustees, had spoken from the heart at last week's forum when he talked about how

change at any institution in a small town is likely to be taken personally by many in the community, and how the community needs to be ready to accept change when it is needed. Conway said he had met with student leaders and they are supportive of the working group's efforts as they relate to strengthening support for students. (Reggie Ponder, THE (Elizabeth City) DAILY ADVANCE, 11/16/17).

### **Pilot Program**

Williams High School in Burlington is one of seven North Carolina high schools selected for the grant-funded program, which aims to lower the high school dropout rate by educating students who are most at-risk through a college and career readiness course. The school chose to pilot the course this year to see what effect it might have on its current 88 percent graduation rate.

"The curriculum is designed to teach kids about career development, job obtainment, job survival, basic competency, leadership and self-development, personal skills as well as life survival skills. In a nutshell, it's the blueprint of how to be a decent professional," Charles Jones, a teacher in the program, said. (Jessica Williams, THE BURLINGTON TIMES-NEWS, 11/15/17).

### **Needle Program**

Emergency services officials from Havelock and Craven County visited the CarolinaEast emergency room Wednesday evening to talk about a new needles-for-addicts program being implemented in Havelock. The directors expressed their hopes that, in coming days, the program will go county-wide and even spread into surrounding counties. According to Dr. Stanley Koontz, EMS director for Pamlico, Jones and Craven counties, the program, which has already taken effect, uses a "different approach" than many other groups. "We go to the patient at the greatest time of need," he said.

He said that when EMS personnel respond to overdose calls, the patients who do not choose to come to the hospital for treatment will be given the option of having a Narcan "family kit" and a needle exchange, in which they trade their used needles for a package of 10 new ones. The addicts also receive information on recovery treatment options. They will also receive a Sharps container in which to safely dispose of those needles once used to avoid contamination and possible spread of disease. (Bill Hand, NEW BERN SUN-JOURNAL, 11/15/17).

### **Lawsuit Dropped**

In response to Davidson County Clerk of Superior Court Brian Shipwash dropping his lawsuit against county officials, the county stated that it is fully meeting both the requirements and intent of the open meetings law.

The lawsuit, filed in late September, stated county officials intentionally omitted a conversation regarding the courthouse and the Windstream building from a July 3 facilities committee meeting. The document stated that prior to the July 3 meeting, none of the facilities committee meetings were properly noticed, advertised or posted in compliance with open meeting laws. Shipwash also alleged that he was intentionally removed from the email list that gave notifications of facilities committee meetings.

Shipwash dropped the lawsuit on Wednesday, saying the county was going to use taxpayer funds to defend the officials named in the lawsuit -- County Manager Zeb Hanner, Clerk to the Board Debbie Harris and county commissioners Steve Jarvis and Todd Yates. (Ben Coley, THE LEXINGTON DISPATCH, 11/16/17).

### **Teaching Fellows**

Five schools announced Thursday will host the new version of the N.C. Teaching Fellows Program. The schools are Elon University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte, N.C. State University and Meredith College in Raleigh. Approved by the legislature this year, the new Teaching Fellows Program provides forgivable loans of up to \$8,250 per year to college students who want to teach science, technology, engineering, math or special education. Teachers can repay their loans by teaching in an N.C. public school. Students who teach in a low-performing school can have their loan erased more quickly. The new Teaching Fellows Program will provide loans to up to 160 students each year at these five schools starting in 2018-19.



The five schools were picked by the N.C Teaching Fellows Commission, whose members include educators from the K-12 and higher education sectors. According to a news release from the UNC system, which oversees the program, the commission selected the sites based on the criteria outlined in state law, including passage rate on teacher licensure exams, internship experiences for prospective teachers and educator effectiveness. The new Teaching Fellows Program is a scaled-down version of the former one, which the legislature phased out beginning in 2011.(John Newsom, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 11/16/17).

### **Official Accused**

A North Carolina town official and his brother are charged in connection with an assault. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office told local media outlets that Chocowinity Town Commissioner John "Curt" Jenkins Jr. is charged with assault inflicting serious bodily injury. John Aaron Matthew Jenkins is charged with assault with a deadly weapon and assault inflicting serious bodily injury. According to a news release from the sheriff's office, the alleged assault stemmed from an argument between the victim and a relative of the Jenkins brothers. The victim said he was knocked to the ground by one of the suspects, while the other suspect kicked him. Both brothers are free on bond. It's not known if they have attorneys. John Jenkins has denied the allegations.(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 11/16/17).

### **Foundation Awards**

The Cone Health Foundation says it will give more than \$4.8 million in grants to 36 Greensboro-area nonprofits. The awards support agencies working in the foundation's four focus areas: access to health care (which accounts for 41 percent of the grants); adolescent pregnancy prevention; HIV/AIDS; and substance abuse and mental health. Some of the grants fall outside of those categories and support community collaborations.(Margaret Moffett, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 11/16/17).

### **Jetty Proposal**

The County Shore Protection office has formally asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take measures to help ensure that a proposed plan to move the Morehead City Port channel away from Shackleford Banks and west toward Fort Macon and Atlantic Beach won't result in serious erosion of the eastern end of Bogue Banks. In addition, the county has officially suggested that a terminal groin or jetty at Shackleford Banks is a viable alternative method to ensure the protection of the port channel.

Specifically, in a letter to Teresa Russell of the Corps' Wilmington District office, Greg "Rudi" Rudolph, manager of the county office, asked the Army Corps to prepare a full environmental impact statement (EIS) or a "mitigated" finding of no significant impact (FONSI) before moving ahead with the project. The Corps has not yet officially responded to the letter or the suggestion of a terminal groin or jetty.(Brad Rich, CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES, 11/15/17).

### **Caisson Unit**

Anyone at a funeral for a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty during the last decade has probably seen them. They are six well-muscled, well-groomed, jet-black horses used to pull caskets atop a Civil War-era wagon to the deceased's final resting place. Since the North Carolina Troopers Association Caisson Unit formed in 2007, it has been stationed in western North Carolina. But now, for the first time in the unit's history, it has been relocated to Wayne County where it will be housed at a locally based unit member's home.

Bennie Grady joined the unit at the beginning of this year and has been with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol for 15-and-a-half years. "It's an honor just to be a part of it," Grady said. The unit trained with N.C. State Highway Patrol troopers from all over the state at the Wayne County Fairgrounds Wednesday. The Caisson Unit participates, upon request, in funerals for fallen officers in North Carolina and all the states that touch its borders. Highway patrol members are on call around the clock in case a law enforcement officer dies in the line of duty and the unit must be activated. The names of the fallen who were carried to their final resting place by the Caisson Unit are listed on the side of the horses' trailer -- through the end of 2016, the unit had performed more than 60 funerals.

Each trooper who is part of the Caisson Unit is making a massive personal sacrifice, also. Since they are on standby constantly, they must be ready to travel anywhere within their coverage area at a moment's notice. If they work a full shift and get a call at 9 p.m. that they need to be in the next state over in the morning, they drop everything and get ready to roll.

"If we got a call today to go to Tennessee to work a funeral, then everybody you've seen will congregate, come from all over the state to here, get everything prepped and ready, and we'll leave out the next morning," Grady said.

The request for the Caisson Unit to be part of a fallen officers' funeral takes precedence over anything else members of the Highway Patrol who are in the unit do. While the schedule is taxing on members of the Highway Patrol who are part of the unit, they feel their efforts are worth it to give their fallen comrades a proper burial. "They gave their all so you're simply trying to give your all," Grady said. (Ethan Smith, GOLDSBORO NEWS-ARGUS, 11/16/17).

## **OBX Museum**

Chaz Winkler and his partner, Dorothy Hope, plan to pick up and truck the 103-year-old two-story building that houses the Outer Banks Beachcomber Museum from N.C. 12 near the oceanfront to U.S. 158, about 450 feet away. The 30,000-square-foot tract sits 8 feet higher than the current site.

While the shingled structure hasn't flooded since the 1962 Ash Wednesday storm, others like Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 have left water swirling around the museum, threatening to inundate support timbers, buckle hardwood floors and leave behind dampness and mildew that could ruin the museum's valuable contents. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and houses the collections of Nellie Myrtle Pridgen, who walked the beaches plucking treasures from the sand for 60 years. Shelves that once held cans of beans and jars of pickles when her parents ran one of the few stores in Nags Head now display bowls of shells, jugs of sea glass, vintage bottles and shipwreck artifacts.

The stockpile has a worldwide reputation chronicled in magazines, books, newspapers and websites. The layout appears much as it did when Nellie died in 1992. Winkler and Hope are trying to raise \$200,000 through direct donations and Indiegogo, an online crowdfunding site, to move the store and the 84-year-old two-story house behind it, and to install parking, a foundation and septic system.

"It's a lot more profitable to own a rental than to save Outer Banks history," he said. "We should be saving history. This is the land of beginnings," Winkler said. (Jeff Hampton, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, 11/15/17).

## **Legislative Studies and Meetings**

Items in **RED** are new listings.

**LB:** Legislative Building

**LOB:** Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

### **Friday, Nov. 17**

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, Subcommittee on Aging, 544 LOB.

### **Tuesday, Nov. 28**

- 10:30 a.m. | The Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group (2017), UNC School of Government / Room 2402 and 2403.

### **Tuesday, Dec. 5**



- **9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, 544 LOB.**

### **Wednesday, Dec. 6**

- **10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Unemployment Insurance, 544 LOB.**

### **Wednesday, Jan. 10**

- 12 p.m. | House Session, House Chamber.
- 12 p.m. | Senate Session, Senate Chamber.

### **Wednesday, Jan. 17**

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

### **Wednesday, Jan. 24**

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

### **Tuesday, Feb. 6**

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

### **Tuesday, Feb. 13**

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

## **N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings**

Items in **RED** are new listings.

### **Friday, Nov. 17**

- 9 a.m. | The State Board of Community Colleges meets, NC Community College System, 200 W. Jones St., Raleigh.
- 11 a.m. | The Transition Committee of the State Board of Community Colleges to begin discussions on the position of president of the NC Community College System, 200 W. Jones St., Raleigh.

### **Monday, Nov. 20**

- **9:30 a.m. | North Carolina Board of Transportation meets, 1 South Wilmington St., 1st Floor Board Room (150), Raleigh.**
- 11:30 a.m. | The State Board of CPA Examiners holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, NC State Board of CPA Examiners, 1101 Oberlin Road, Suite 104, Raleigh.

### **Tuesday, Nov. 21**

- **9 a.m. | North Carolina Board of Pharmacy meets, 6015 Farrington Road, Suite 201, Chapel Hill.**
- **10 a.m. | NC Aquarium @ Pine Knoll Shores Community Advisory Committee meets, 1 Roosevelt Blvd., Pine Knoll Shores.**

- 10 a.m. | The Alarm Systems Licensing Board holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Bailey and Dixon Law Firm, 434 Fayetteville St., Suite 2500, Raleigh.
- 10 a.m. | N.C. Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall releases the 2016-2017 NC Charitable Solicitation annual report, 864 West Morgan St., Raleigh. Contact: Liz Proctor, 919- 814-5341.

## **Tuesday, Nov. 28**

- **11 a.m. | The N.C. Economic Investment Committee Board meets, 301 N. Wilmington St., Commerce Executive Board Room, 4th floor, Raleigh.**
- **12 p.m. | NC Military Affairs Commission meets, 301 N. Wilmington St., Department of Public Instruction, 7th Floor, Board of Education Conference Room, Raleigh.**
- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries hold public hearings on two proposed shellfish leases in Carteret County, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' Central District Office, 5285 U.S.70 West, Morehead City.
- 6 p.m. | The Environmental Management Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, New Bern-Craven County Public Library, 400 Johnston St., New Bern.

## **Tuesday, Dec. 5**

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries hold public hearing on a proposed shellfish lease in Pender County, Surf City Visitor's Center, 102 North Shore Dr., Surf City.

## **Thursday, Dec. 7**

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, 888-684-8404.
- 9 a.m. | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

## **Tuesday, December 12**

- 8:30 a.m. | The Fund Development and Communications Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets via conference call. Contact: Yvonne H. Huntley, 919-821-9573.

## **Wednesday, Dec. 13**

- 10 a.m. | The NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission meets, 400 East Tryon Road, Raleigh.

## **Thursday, Dec. 14**

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

## **Wednesday, Jan. 10**

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

## **Thursday, Jan. 11**

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

## UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development  
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in RED**)  
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

### **Friday, Dec. 15**

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

### **Friday, Jan. 26, 2018**

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

### **Friday, March 23, 2018**

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

### **Friday, May 25, 2018**

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

## N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building  
430 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

### **Monday, Nov. 20**

- Staff Conference
- 1 p.m. | E-2 Sub 1142 ... Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustment of Rates and Charges Applicable to Electric Service in North Carolina, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

### **Monday, Nov. 27**

- Staff Conference

### **Thursday, Nov. 30**

- 7 p.m. | E-2 Sub 1113 ... Application for Certificate to Construct a 230 KV Transmission Line in Carteret County, Carteret County Courthouse, 300 Courthouse Square, Beaufort.

### **Monday, Dec. 4**

- Staff Conference

### **Tuesday, Dec. 5**

- 10 a.m. | E-2 Sub 1113 ... Application for Certificate to Construct a 230 KV Transmission Line in Carteret County, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.



### **Wednesday, Dec. 6**

- 11 a.m. | E-100 Sub 37A ... North Carolina Advanced Energy Corporation, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

### **Thursday, Dec. 7**

- 9:30 a.m. | W-1314 Sub 1 ...Application of Pluris Webb Creek, LLC for CPCN to Provide Service to Webb Creek Water and Sewage, Inc., Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.
- 9:30 a.m. | W-864 Sub 14 ... Complaint and Petition for Revocation of Franchise, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

### **Monday, Dec. 11**

- Staff Conference

### **Monday, Dec. 18**

- Staff Conference

### **Tuesday, Jan. 2**

- Staff Conference

## **N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality**

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

### **Wednesday, Dec. 13**

- 9 a.m. | The State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC) meets, Dix Grill, 1101 Cafeteria Dr., Raleigh.

## **Other Meetings and Events of Interest**

Items in **RED** are new listings.

### **Tuesday, Dec. 5**

- 9 a.m. | North Carolina Bankers Association host Internal Bank Audit Seminar, Paragon Bank - 3535 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh.

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